

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus that can include a plurality of applications, the image forming apparatus comprising:

a displaying part displaying a screen used for selecting an application on an operation display part of the image forming apparatus; and

~~an assigning a mapping~~ part ~~assigning mapping~~ a selected application that is selected on the screen to a function key when the function key is pushed ~~for the selected application,~~
such that the selected application is executed when the function key is later pushed after mapping of the selected application has occurred;

wherein the function key is a key used for a user to select and execute an application from a plurality of applications that are useable on the image forming apparatus.

Claim 2 (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the function key is a hardware key.

Claim 3 (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the function key is a software key that is displayed on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~assignment~~ mapping by the ~~assigning~~ mapping part is performed when the image forming apparatus is in a mode for ~~assigning~~ mapping the selected application to the function key.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when ~~assignment~~ mapping of the selected application is performed, the image forming apparatus displays a guidance screen indicating an operation of the function key on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus.

Claim 6 (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the guidance screen includes an image of an operation panel of the image forming apparatus and an image for guiding a user to the function key.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when ~~assignment~~ mapping of the selected application is performed, the image forming apparatus displays a screen indicating the number of applications ~~assigned~~ mapping to the function key.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein, when the function key is pushed for the selected application, the image forming apparatus displays a screen indicating that the function key cannot be ~~assigned~~ mapped to the

selected application if the number of applications ~~assigned~~ mapped to the function key already reaches a limit number.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, the ~~assigning~~ mapping part including:

a part obtaining a function key ID corresponding to the pushed function key; and

a part storing an application ID of the selected application and the obtained function key ID in which the application ID is associated with the function key ID.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein, in addition to the function key ID, the image forming apparatus stores extension key IDs for identifying a plurality of applications ~~assigned~~ mapped to the function key.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when a function key to which a plurality of applications are ~~assigned~~ mapped is pushed, the image forming apparatus displays a screen including the names of the plurality of applications for a user to select one application from the plurality of applications.

Claim 12 (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the image forming apparatus displays application status for each of the plurality of applications.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application from a plurality of applications according to a number of times a user pushes a function key to which the plurality of applications are ~~assigned~~ mapped within a time period.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application from a plurality of applications in which the one application corresponds to an extension key ID that is the same as a number of times a user pushes the function key to which the plurality of applications are ~~assigned~~ mapped within a time period.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method used for ~~assigning~~ mapping an application to a function key in an image forming apparatus that can include a plurality of applications, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

displaying a screen used for selecting an application on an operation display part of the image forming apparatus; and

~~assigning~~ mapping a selected application that is selected on the screen to a function key when the function key is pushed ~~for the selected application, such that the selected application is executed when the function key is later pushed after mapping of the selected application has occurred~~;

wherein the function key is a key used for a user to select and execute an application from a plurality of applications that are useable on the image forming apparatus.

Claim 16 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the function key is a hardware key.

Claim 17 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the function key is a software key that is displayed on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the step of ~~assigning~~ mapping is performed when the image forming apparatus is in a mode for ~~assigning~~ mapping the selected application to the function key.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein, when ~~assignment~~ mapping of the selected application is performed, the image forming apparatus displays a guidance screen indicating an operation of the function key on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus.

Claim 20 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the guidance screen includes an image of an operation panel of the image forming apparatus and an image for guiding a user to the function key.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein, when ~~assignment~~ mapping of the selected application is performed, the image forming apparatus displays a screen indicating the number of applications ~~assigned~~ mapped to the function key.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein, when the function key is pushed for the selected application, the image forming apparatus displays a screen indicating that the function key cannot be ~~assigned~~ mapped to the selected application if the number of applications ~~assigned~~ mapped to the function key already reaches a limit number.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein, in the step of ~~assigning~~ mapping, the image forming apparatus obtains a function key ID corresponding to the pushed function key; and stores an application ID of the selected application and the obtained function key ID in which the application ID is associated with the function key ID.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein, in addition to the function key ID, the image forming apparatus stores extension key IDs for identifying a plurality of applications ~~assigned~~ mapped to the function key.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein, when a function key to which a plurality of applications are ~~assigned~~ mapped is pushed, the image

forming apparatus displays a screen including the names of the plurality of applications for a user to select one application from the plurality of applications.

Claim 26 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the image forming apparatus displays application status for each of the plurality of applications.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application from a plurality of applications according to a number of times a user pushes a function key to which the plurality of applications are ~~assigned~~ mapped within a time period.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application from a plurality of applications in which the one application corresponds to an extension key ID that is the same as a number of times a user pushes the function key to which the plurality of applications are ~~assigned~~ mapped within a time period.

Claims 29-42 (Canceled)

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): A computer readable medium storing a computer program for causing an image forming apparatus to ~~assign~~ map an application to a function

key, in which the image forming apparatus can include a plurality of applications, the computer program comprising:

displaying program code means for displaying a screen used for selecting an application on an operation display part of the image forming apparatus; and

~~assigning~~ mapping program code means for ~~assigning~~ mapping a selected application that is selected on the screen to a function key when the function key is pushed ~~for the selected application, such that the selected application is executed when the function key is later pushed after mapping of the selected application has occurred;~~

wherein the function key is a key used for a user to select and execute an application from a plurality of applications that are useable on the image forming apparatus.

Claim 44 (Original): The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 43, wherein the function key is a hardware key.

Claim 45 (Original): The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 43, wherein the function key is a software key that is displayed on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus.

Claim 46 (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 43, wherein ~~assignment~~ mapping by the ~~assigning~~ mapping program code means is

performed when the image forming apparatus is in a mode for ~~assigning~~ mapping the selected application to the function key.

Claim 47 (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 43, wherein the ~~assigning~~ mapping program code means displays a guidance screen indicating an operation of the function key on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus.

Claim 48 (Original): The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 47, wherein the guidance screen includes an image of an operation panel of the image forming apparatus and an image for guiding a user to the function key.

Claim 49 (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 43, wherein the ~~assigning~~ mapping program code means displays a screen indicating the number of applications ~~assigned~~ mapped to the function key.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 49, wherein the ~~assigning~~ mapping program code means displays a screen indicating that the function key cannot be ~~assigned~~ mapped to the selected application if the number of applications ~~assigned~~ mapped to the function key already reaches a limit number.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 43, the ~~assigning~~ mapping program code means including:

program code means for obtaining a function key ID corresponding to the pushed function key; and

program code means for storing an application ID of the selected application and the obtained function key ID in which the application ID is associated with the function key ID.

Claim 52 (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 51, wherein, in addition to the function key ID, the ~~assigning~~ mapping program code means stores extension key IDs for identifying a plurality of applications ~~assigned~~ mapped to the function key.

Claim 53 (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 43, the computer program further comprising displaying program code means for, when a function key to which a plurality of applications are ~~assigned~~ mapped is pushed, displaying a screen including the names of the plurality of applications for a user to select one application from the plurality of applications.

Claim 54 (Original): The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 53, wherein the displaying program code means displays application status for each of the plurality of applications.

Claim 55 (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 43, the computer program further comprising program code means for selecting one application from a plurality of applications according to a number of times a user pushes a function key to which the plurality of applications are ~~assigned~~ mapped within a time period.

Claim 56 (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 52, the computer program further comprising program code means for selecting one application from a plurality of applications in which the one application corresponds to an extension key ID that is the same as a number of times a user pushes the function key to which the plurality of applications are ~~assigned~~ mapped within a time period.